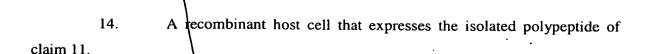
CLAIMS

- 1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) the polynucleotide shown as SEQ ID NO:X or the polynucleotide encoded by a cDNA included in ATCC Deposit No:Z;
- (b) a polynucleotide encoding a biologically active polypeptide fragment of SEQ ID NO:Y or a biologically active polypeptide fragment encoded by the cDNA sequence included in ATCC Deposit No:Z;
- (c) a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide epitope of SEQ ID NO:Y or a polypeptide epitope encoded by the cDNA sequence included in ATCC Deposit No:Z;
- (d) a polynucleotide capable of hybridizing under stringent conditions to any one of the polynucleotides specified in (a)-(c), wherein said polynucleotide does not hybridize under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleotide sequence of only A residues or of only T residues.
- 2. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a soluble polypeptide.
- 3. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding the sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:Y or the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA sequence included in ATCC Deposit No:Z.
- 4. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the entire nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:X or a cDNA included in ATCC Deposit No:Z.
- 5. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 2, wherein the polynucleotide is DNA.

- 6. The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 3, wherein the polynucleotide is RNA.
 - 7. A vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.
 - 8. A host call comprising the vector of claim 7.
- 9. A recombinant host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 operably limited to a heterologous regulating element which controls gene expression.
- 10. A method of producing a polypeptide comprising expressing the encoded polypeptide from the host cell of claim 9 and recovering said polypeptide.
- 11. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) the polypeptide shown as SEQ ID NO:Y or the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA;
- (b) a polypeptide fragment of SEQ ID NO:Y or the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA;
- (c) a polypeptide epitope of SEQ ID NO:Y or the polypeptide encoded by the cDNA; and
 - (d) a variant of SEQ ID NO:Y.
- 12. The isolated polypeptide of claim 11, comprising a polypeptide having SEQ ID NO:Y.
- 13. An isolated antibody that binds specifically to the isolated polypeptide of claim 11.



- 15. A method of making an isolated polypeptide comprising:
- (a) culturing the recombinant host cell of claim 14 under conditions such that said polypeptide is expressed; and
 - (b) recovering said polypeptide.
 - 16. The polypeptide produced by claim 15.
- 17. A method for preventing, treating, or ameliorating a medical condition, comprising administering to a mammalian subject a therapeutically effective amount of the polynucleotide of claim 1.
- 18. A method of diagnosing a pathological condition or a susceptibility to a pathological condition in a subject comprising:
- (a) determining the presence or absence of a mutation in the polynucleotide of claim 1; and
- (b) diagnosing a pathological condition or a susceptibility to a pathological condition based on the presence or absence of said mutation.
- 19. A method of diagnosing a pathological condition or a susceptibility to a pathological condition in a subject comprising:
- (a) determining the presence or amount of expression of the polypeptide of claim 11 in a biological sample; and
- (b) diagnosing a pathological condition or a susceptibility to a pathological condition based on the presence or amount of expression of the polypeptide.
- 20. A method for identifying a binding partner to the polypeptide of claim 11 comprising:
 - (a) contacting the polypeptide of claim 11 with a binding partner; and

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- (b) determining whether the binding partner effects an activity of the polypeptide.
- 21. A method of screening for molecules which modify activities of the polypeptide of claim 11 comprising:
 - (a) contacting said polypeptide with a compound suspected of having agonist or antagonist activity; and
 - (b) assaying for activity of said polypeptide.
 - 22. A method for preventing, treating, or ameliorating a medical condition, comprising administering to a mammalian subject a therapeutically effective amount the polypeptide of claim 11.